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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

MEETING OF COASTAL STATES AND DISTANT-WATER FISHING NATIONS

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PAPER SUBMITTED BY JAPAN

Japan presented biological information, and noted its achievements in the field of stock assessment, which were revised every year, and which thereby supplemented the work being done by the SPC Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme. Particular points to which Japan drew attention were as follows:

- Recent expansion of purse seine fleets coincides with a decline of yellowfin CPUE in the Japanese longline fishery. This decline stays within the range of historical fluctuation, but is still worth being carefully observed.
 - MSY estimates were given for major tuna and billfish stocks in the world oceans, inclusive of yellowfin and albacore in the South Pacific. Recently the amount of Japanese fishing effort has been restrained so as not to exceed the level already achieved. This has been done by licensing systems and by other measures such as removing five 300-ton bait boats from the fishery for the construction of a 500-ton purse seiner and reductions in the longline fleet from 1981 to 1983.
 - Japan is financially supporting the UNDP/FAO Indo-Pacific Tuna Programme, and recently hosted its ad hoc statistics workshop. The reason for ceasing the publication of detailed catch and effort statistics of longline and baitboat fisheries was also given. Nevertheless, logbooks are collected and compiled for the longline, baitboat and long-distance purse seine fleets. International organisations, of which Japan is a member, are provided with the data in their respective areas, and Japanese boats are submitting their logbooks to coastal states governments according to access agreements.
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